TELLING A STORY

Every piece of art tells a story. Find the image at the left in the gallery. What story does this piece tell you?

What words best describe this scene?

- CALM
- EXCITING
- ROUGH
- DRAMATIC
- SCARY
- ANGRY
- JOYFUL
- SWEET
- ORGANIZED
- WILD
- ADVENTUOUS
- NOISY
- FUN
- TAME
- DARK
- BORING
- TENSE
- STILL

Describe what you think is happening in this scene:

What helps you determine this?

What happened before the action in this painting?

What will happen after the action in this painting?
Each war has its own unique look. This is because of when and where in the world the conflict took place. As you examine the artwork within this exhibition, look for clues that can tell you the location and the time period being shown. Once you know the place and time period, it will become much easier to tell which war the artwork is depicting. See if you can use the painting’s landscape and equipment to determine where and when the war in each picture took place.

Hint: Look at the masks the men have on their faces.

A cartoon is a drawing that often uses humor to convey a message. Soldiers artists use cartoons as a light-hearted way to relieve stress, while also making serious points about the experience of war. Look at the cartoons in this section of the exhibit.

Who is most often the subject of the cartoons?

As an example, start with the cartoon “The Shower.” What is the cartoonist saying about the soldier experience? Who is getting made fun of? How do we know? Would this cartoon be funny to everyone who saw it, or is it for a specific audience?

What message do you think the artist was trying to convey when creating this piece?
MEDICAL TREATMENT

The symbol of a red cross tells soldiers from all sides that the people, buildings and vehicles they see are helping those who need medical treatment. They are not to be attacked. In fact, if soldiers do attack something or someone with a red cross, they can get into a lot of trouble. The symbol of the red cross is seen in many of the pieces in this exhibition. See if you can match the red crosses shown here with the artwork in which they are depicted.

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

In this last section of the exhibition, you see portraits of American soldiers from World War I to today. Many combat artists made it a point to sketch the faces of the soldiers they were with. What emotions do you see in the portraits? Pick one and sketch your own example of that emotion.

Portrait Sketching Tips

Keep the following things in mind.

- *The tilt of the eyes*
- *The width and length of the nose*
- *The thickness of the lips*
- *The shape of the jaw line*
- *The distance between the hairline and the top of the eyes*